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SENATE
S. No. 1578

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Global warming refers to the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near surface air and oceans in recent decades and its projected continuation. The global average air temperature near the Earth's surface rose 0.74 ± 0.18 °C (1.33 ± 0.32 °F) during the last 100 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes, "Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations" via the greenhouse effect.

Climate models referenced by the IPCC project that global surface temperatures are likely to increase by 1.1 to 6.4 °C (2.0 to 11.5 °F) between 1990 and 2100. The range of values results from the use of differing scenarios of future greenhouse gas emissions as well as models with differing climate sensitivity. Although most studies focus on the period up to 2100, warming and sea level rise are expected to continue for more than a millennium even if greenhouse gas levels are stabilized.¹ This reflects the large heat capacity of the oceans.

An increase in global temperatures is expected to cause other changes, including sea level rise, increased intensity of extreme weather events, and changes in the amount and pattern of precipitation. Other effects include changes in agricultural yields, glacier retreat, species extinctions, reduced summer stream flows and increases in the ranges of disease vectors.

¹ Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007-02-05). Retrieved on 2007-02-02.

Changes in the amount and pattern of precipitation may result in flooding and drought. There may also be changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

Due to these concerns, a topographical map should be crafted to identify the low-lying areas of the Philippine territory, vulnerable to rising sea levels as result of global warming.²

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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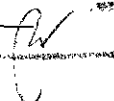
² Originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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SENATE
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1 AN ACT
2 TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
3 THROUGH THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION
4 AUTHORITY, TO IDENTIFY THE LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINE
5 TERRITORY, VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVELS AS RESULT OF GLOBAL
6 WARMING

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
8 *Congress assembled:*

9 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Topographical Map of Low-
10 Lying Areas in the Philippines Act of 2007."

11 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the public
12 health, safety, and general welfare; to further the orderly layout of land and identification of low-
13 lying areas vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of global warming; to establish the
14 procedure for vacating these areas in the event of imminent danger caused by global warming.

15 SECTION 3. *Department of Environment and Natural Resources: The National Mapping*
16 *and Resource Information Authority; Local Government Units.* - Within one (1) year after the
17 affectivity of this act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through
18 the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) is directed to submit a
19 topographical map of the Philippines, identifying the low-lying areas vulnerable to rising sea
20 levels as result of global warming. It shall contain proper identification of lands bordering sea
21 levels, in consultation with the applicable local government units, to come up with the most
22 accurate data.

23 SECTION 4. *Appropriation of Funds.* Seventy Million (PhP 70,000,000.00) Pesos is
24 herein appropriated from the National Treasury to fund the activities covered in this Act.

25 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
27 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers, of general circulation.